

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

1. **Project Number** (Assigned by federal unit): OR-151-03-05
2. **Project Name:** Ginger Creek Progeny Test Site Non-Commercial Thin / Release / Disease Control
3. **County:** Jackson
4. **Project Sponsor:** Alan Buchta
5. **Date:** _____
6. **Sponsors Phone # :** 541-618-2266
7. **Sponsor's E-mail:** abuchta@or.blm.gov
8. **Project Location** (attach project area map)

- a. 4th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Rogue River HUC # 171003070
- b. 5th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Big Butte Creek HUC # 1710030704
- c. Legal Location: Township 35 South, Range 2 East, Section 23, Will. Mer.
- d. BLM District: Medford
- e. BLM Resource Area: Butte Falls
- h. State / Private / Other lands involved? Yes No

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:

The goals of this project are to release selected genetic performance trees in a 20+ year old Douglas fir progeny site plantation, thinning to reduce tree density from over 500 per acre to about 300 per acre assuring healthy growth rates. Additionally, there are over twenty root rot centers spreading laminated root rot throughout the plantation. Isolation cuttings would attempt to contain this slowly spreading root disease. Thinning would favor the presence of naturally occurring diverse conifers (incense cedar, pine) that are resistant to this disease.

Maintenance of this plantation would protect the investment BLM has made in the development of this genetic tree site. With genetic testing completed, and plus-trees identified, it is crucial to maintain the stands growth and development, which is currently threatened by dense growing conditions and a spreading root disease.

This plantation is in the Butte Falls municipal watershed where maintenance of a healthy forest stand is important for the delivery of high quality water.

10. Project Description: (Provide concise description of project and attach map.)

Utilizing low ground pressure logging equipment, trees identified for cutting would be cut and removed for possible biomass or firewood material. Currently the value of this material does not support its removal as in traditional timber sale contracts. Work must be subsidized with procurement contract dollars, i.e. "goods for services". All work would be done in a manner that would protect the developing stand.

11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?

- Yes No If yes, then describe.

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12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

13. Project Type (check one) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)] | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)] | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): _____ [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)] | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)] | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)] | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)] | <input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F/G&F/G)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)] | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: _ |

14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes [Sec. 203(b)(5)]

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a. Total Acres: <u>10</u> | e. No. of Laborer Days: <u>N/A</u> |
| b. Total Miles: <u>N/A</u> | f. Other (specify): <u>N/A</u> |
| c. No. Structures: <u>N/A</u> | |
| d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects): <u>N/A</u> | |

15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]: one month

16. Target Species Benefitted: (if applicable) Douglas fir release and laminated root rot containment

17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? [Sec. 2(b)(3)]

Lands designated for the management of healthy forests on matrix land allocations will be managed for the sustained supply of timber.

18. How is this project in the best public interest? [Sec. 203(b)(7)] **Identify benefits to communities?**

It would reestablish healthy growth rates of young timber stands. Investments in 20+ years of genetic growth studies would be protected. A healthy stand of trees in a municipal watershed would contribute to clean water to municipal Butte Falls customers.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?

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Thinning an overly dense stand of Douglas fir trees would encourage growth rates to a quicker mature condition

20. Status of Project Planning

- a. NEPA Complete: Yes No
- b. If No, give est. date of completion: _____
- c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- e. Survey & Manage Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- f. DSL/ODFW* Permits Obtained: Yes No Not Applicable
- g. DLS/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained: Yes No Not Applicable
- h. SHPO* Concurrence Received: Yes No Not Applicable
- i. Project Design(s) Completed: Yes No

* DSL = Dept. of State Lands, ODFW = Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, COE = Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Officer

21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment

- Contract Federal Workforce
- County Workforce Volunteers
- Other (specify): _____

22. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? (Sec. 204(e)(3))

- Yes No

23. Anticipated Project Costs [Sec. 203(b)(3)]

- a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$ 10,000
- b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes No

Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
24. Field Work & Site Surveys	completed			
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation	completed			
26. Permit Acquisition	N/A			
27. Project Design & Engineering	completed			
28. Contract Preparation	\$1,200			

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Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
29. Contract Administration	\$5,000			
30. Contract Cost		\$10,000		
31. Workforce Cost	N/A			
32. Materials & Supplies	N/A			
33. Monitoring	\$2,500			
34. Other				
35. Project Subtotal	\$8,700	\$10,000		
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)				
37. Total Cost Estimate	\$ 8,700	\$ 10,000	\$	\$

38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding in Column C. Above [Sec. 203(b)(4)]
N/A

39. Monitoring Plan (Sec.203(b)(6))

a. What measures or evaluations will be made to determine how well the proposed project meets the desired ecological conditions? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] **Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

Three years of data has been collected to monitor the slow growth rates on over seventy selected genetic reserve trees. Followup measurements of these trees would likely indicate a response to the thinning release operation. Root rot disease centers have been mapped and monitoring would confirm the containment of disease spread. Committed area personnel would be responsible to follow up on monitoring measurements.

b. How will the project be evaluated to determine how well the proposed project contributes towards local employment and/or training opportunities, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] **Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

This project would have no effect on jobs, training or youth programs other than the one month of employment that comes to the area to complete this project. With some planning the area could be used as an example of how active forest management contributes to the development of forest stand structure objectives, be they fiber production, disease control, or old growth characteristics.

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- c. **What methods and measures of evaluation will be established to determine how well the proposed project improves the use of, or added value to, any products removed from National Forest System lands consistent with the purposes of this Act?** [Sec. 203(b)(6) and Sec. 204(e)(3)] **Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

Tens of thousands of acres of forest land in SW Oregon are dense with material that is too large to handle with traditional silvicultural treatments and too small, yet often of a commercial size, to thin with timber sales. These forests represent a threat to themselves as a fire risk and in their declining condition are at risk from insect infestations. These dense stands also represent an opportunity to develop techniques to remove surplus biomass material to feed cogeneration plants to produce electrical power. Traditional treatments via procurement contracts are expensive to implement, while leaving hazardous fuels on the ground or smoke into airsheds from burning hand piles. Cutting and removing dense unmerchantable material removes those fuels and eliminates the creation of smoke, while improving the condition of the stand. The difficulty these treatments represent is they are contrary to procurement procedures which do not allow direct payment for services in removing material from forest treatments, i.e. "goods for services". This project would require the change in contacting regulations in order to be implemented. Monitoring would be done by area personnel that are committed to doing things in a different manner.

Meanwhile, monitoring the mortality on the Ginger Creek site from slowly stagnating stand conditions and the creeping laminated root rot disease will continue.

- d. **Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**

Amount: estimated at \$2,500/ year (two weeks per year)